

REMARKS

Re-examination and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,942,477 to NAKAMURA. Applicant respectfully traverses this ground of rejection.

According to a feature of the present invention, a camera is disclosed that can be selectively connected to a printer. A photographing operation (e.g., capturing an image to the camera) and a printing operation (e.g., reproducing the captured image on the selectively connected printer) may be performed by operating an image data generating start mechanism (e.g., release switch 101) that is associated with (part of) the camera. That is, both the photographing operation and the printing operation can be controlled by the camera. Furthermore, the reproduction mode is automatically set after the photographing operation is performed (see, for example, page 17, lines 6-14 of Applicant's specification).

Applicant submits that at least these features are lacking from the applied art of record. In NAKAMURA, only the photographing operation can be performed by operating the camera switch 28. A printing operation can not be performed by operating the camera switch (e.g., release switch) 28 of NAKAMURA. Further, NAKAMURA does not disclose (or even suggest) that the reproduction mode (e.g., mode to print a captured image) is automatically set after the photographing operation is performed, so that a subsequent activation of the camera switch 28 will result in the printing operation being performed.

By the current amendment, Applicant amends independent claim 1 to clarify that the reproduction mode (printing of a captured image) is performed in response to an activation of the release data generating start mechanism (e.g., release switch) associated with the

camera.

Applicant notes that the Examiner asserts (see, page 7, last paragraph of the December 5, 2003 Office Action) that claim 1 (prior to the current amendment) specifies “one of said image data generating start mechanism and a printing operation start mechanism”, and thus, the prior art need only read on the limitation “said image data generating start mechanism” or the limitation “a printing operation start mechanism”, and then asserts that switch 13 (e.g., the switch on the printer) of NAKAMURA reads on claim 1 because switch 13 can take the image and print the image. Applicant submits that this assertion is erroneous. In the last response that was filed on November 12, 2003, Applicant revised the relevant portion of claim 1 to specify “said image data transmitting processor being activatable, in said reproduction mode by said image data generating start mechanism (emphasis added), so that said printer carries out said printing operation”. The image data generating start mechanism (e.g., release switch 101) is part of the camera, and not the printer. Claim 1 did not specify that in the reproducing mode, the printing operation is performed by activating either the image data generating start mechanism (e.g., release switch 101 of the camera) or by activating the printing operation start mechanism (e.g., switch 214 of the printer). Claim 1 specified that in the reproducing mode, the printing operation is performed responsive to the activation of the image data generating start switch.

In order to advance the prosecution of the instant applicant, Applicant herewith revises claim 1 to more clearly indicate that the activation of the image data generating start mechanism causes the printer to carry out the printing operation in the reproduction mode. Further, while Applicant believes that the claim was clear as previously written (the elements

recited therein being elements of the still video camera), Applicant has additionally clarified claim 1 to indicate that the image data generating start mechanism is part of the camera. Applicant submits that these revisions are merely intended to clarify what was previously recited, and thus, no estoppel should apply thereto.

Applicant further amends claim 1 to indicate that the reproduction mode is automatically set after the photographing operation. As discussed above, this is not disclosed (or even suggested) by NAKAMURA.

Applicant also amends independent claim 16 in a manner similar to claim 1. Independent claim 8 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 9, and also, that operation of the image data generating start mechanism results in the automatic setting of the reproduction mode after the photographing operation is performed.

Further, Applicant has reviewed the dependent claims and made revisions therein as necessary to ensure conformance with the independent claims. These claims are submitted to be allowable for at least the reasons applicable to the respective independent claims, as discussed above.

As discussed above, Applicant submits that NAKAMURA does not disclose that a release switch of a camera results in the printing of a captured image, or the automatic setting of the reproduction mode. Accordingly, Applicant submits that NAKAMURA fails to anticipate the present amendment, as defined by the claims, and respectfully requests that this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 19 stands rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,094,282 to HODA et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this ground of rejection. In order to advance the

prosecution of the present application, Applicant herewith cancels claim 19. However, Applicant expressly reserves the right to submit a similar type claim in another application.

In view of the cancellation of claim 19, Applicant submits it is no longer necessary to respond to the rejection.

However, Applicant submits it would be inappropriate for the Examiner to attempt to combine the teaching of NAKAMURA and HODA in an effort to reject the current amended claims. HODA discloses a camera with an integral printer, in which a photographing operation and a printing operation are performed in response to the manipulation of button 103 (in the first disclosed embodiment; button 1103 in the second disclosed embodiment). The photographing mode and the printing (reproducing) mode are selected in HODA via the manipulation of switch 112 (also referred to as switch SP). Thus, Applicant submits that the printing operation of HODA is not automatically performed after a photographing operation, by operating only button 103 (or button 1103 in the second embodiment).

Thus, Applicant submits that even if one attempted to combine the teachings of NAKAMURA and HODA, one would fail to arrive at a camera in which a printing operation is performable by activating a release switch (image data generating start mechanism) of the camera, in which the reproduction mode is automatically set after the photographing operation is performed.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the fact that the art of record, individually (or even in combination), fails to disclose or suggest the present invention, as defined by the pending claims, and in further

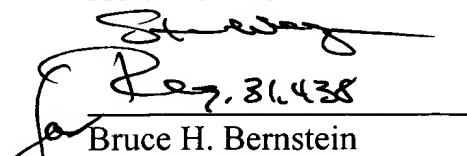
view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Commissioner determine that an extension of time is required in order to render this response timely and/or complete, a formal request for an extension of time, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), is herewith made in an amount equal to the time period required to render this response timely and/or complete. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required extension of time fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

If there should be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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March 1, 2004
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